

**Rhode Island Department of Health
Women's Health Advisory Committee
Final Meeting Minutes – December 5, 2007**

Members Present: Carrie Bridges, Catherine Graziano, Marie Ghazal, Melanie Duhamel, Iris Tong, Kristina Diamond, Katie Albert, Marlene McCarthy, Janet Searles, Margaret Koch, Marian Mehegan, Danielle Denis, Christine Ryan, Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Yvonne Freeman

Members Excused Absent: Lisa Shea, Lisa Jones, Cynthia Rosengard, Maureen Phipps

Members Unexcused Absent: Wendy Fox, Kacia Yazbak, Janae Ashley, Chasity Hernandez, Jessica Marfeo

Guests: Kelly Orr, Kathryn Bender, Rita Parquette, Carol Owens, Reem El Ghamry

Welcome & Introductions

Iris Tong called the meeting to order at 3:05

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from November 7, 2007 accepted. Members requested that all persons present at meeting be listed in attendance, whether they are WHAC members or not.

WHAC Procedures/Protocols

Carrie Bridges answered procedural questions from the November meeting. As a voluntary and optional advisory committee, WHAC is

not required to have a quorum of its members present in order to make a decision and the WHAC can determine its own decision-making process. The 2008 WHAC meeting calendar is in members' packets. WHAC members suggest looking at operating procedures to determine what to do about people who consistently do not attend meetings.

Project Updates & Next Steps

Pharmacy Follow-up:

- Kristina Diamond, Planned Parenthood of RI, did a presentation on the findings from Planned Parenthood's 2007 survey on access to emergency contraception at RI pharmacies.
- Kelly Orr, Clinical Asst. Professor of Pharmacy at URI, presented on a 2004-2005 RI survey of community pharmacists' opinions regarding emergency contraception, JAPhA 2007;47(4):504-7.
- letter from LisaTorrado, Board of Directors, RI Right to Life, concerning the distribution of emergency contraception was circulated to members. Rita Parquette, RI Right to Life, was in attendance at the meeting and was offered the opportunity to express any concerns about access to emergency contraception. Catherine Graziano wanted RI Right to Life to have time on the agenda to present their views; Rita Parquette was not sure if RI Right to Life had relevant research or experts to comment on access to emergency contraception at RI pharmacies. RI Right to Life agreed to contact the WHAC within a week if they had research or expertise on access to emergency contraception in RI to present.

- WHAC members stated they had no remaining unanswered questions on the issue and reviewed the most recent version of the letter to the Pharmacy Board. Iris Tong agreed to shorten the letter and remove the proposed steps to the Board. The letter will then be distributed and WHAC members will indicate whether they want to be signatories to the letter so that it can be presented to the Director of Health in advance of the Pharmacy Board meeting on December 20 at 8:30 am in room 401 at HEALTH. A minority report can also be submitted to the Director of Health.
- WHAC recognized the concern about teenagers having sex with older men is a Women's Health issue that the WHAC should consider addressing in the future

Teen Ambassador Projects

Marie Ghazal asked Teen Ambassadors to present ideas for 2008 projects at the January 9 WHAC meeting. Based on the projects, WHAC mentors will be identified for each teen. Office of Women's Health will send out an email to describe the process.

New Business

Iris Tong asked members to bring ideas for new projects/issues to consider to the January 9 meeting so that the WHAC can identify 1-2 priorities for the year. In selecting priorities, WHAC members should consider how DOH impacts the issue and whether the WHAC can reasonably expect to impact the issue. Topics for consideration presented at the meeting include:

- (a) safety of women sexually taken advantage of by older men**
- (b) older women vulnerable because of cuts to grants from DEA and proposed federal cuts to Medicare payments**

Regional Report

Marian Mehegan, Region I Women's Health Coordinator from the DHHS Office on Women's Health introduced herself to the group. Marian will attend future meetings of the WHAC as an ex officio member.

Staff Report

Carrie Bridges with Janet Searles provided a brief update of the Women's Health Conference planned for May 1, 2008.

Announcements

Janet Searles announced the Best Beginnings Conference put on by Women & Infants' Hospital, targeting childbirth educators, lactation consultants, and nurses, to be held March 13 & 14 at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Warwick.

Next Meeting Date

January 9, 2008